

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00116 030851Z

12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /039 W

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R 030756Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1808

INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR MU

SUBJECT: NEW ROUTES AND OTHER GULF AIR DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KUWAIT 86

1. OMAN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION SALIM BIN NASSIR (WHO ALSO SERVES AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF GULF AIR) HAS INFORMED US THAT GULF AIR HAS ALREADY OBTAINED LANDING RIGHTS IN PARIS AND HOPES SOON TO RECEIVE RIGHTS FOR STOP IN AMSTERDAM. HE HAS RECENTLY TRAVELED TO EUROPE TO SECURE THE NEW ROUTES. NASSIR ENVISAGES THAT GULF AIR WOULD ESTABLISH FLIGHTS FROM MUSCAT AND ABU DHABI DIRECT TO PARIS AND A TERMINAL STOP IN AMSTERDAM. THESE FLIGHTS WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO EXISTING ROUTES BETWEEN THE GULF AND LONDON.

2. WE ASKED NASSIR IF THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY OF MERGER BETWEEN GULF AIR AND KUWAIT AIRWAYS (REFTEL). NASSIR DID NOT CATEGORICALLY RULE OUT SUCH A MERGER. HE  
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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00116 030851Z

ALLUDED, HOWEVER, TO MYRIAD TECHNICAL DETAILS THAT WOULD

HAVE TO BE IRONED OUT BEFORE MERGER COULD BECOME SUCCESSFUL AND FELT THAT IT WOULD BE SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE EVEN PRELIMINARY MOVES COULD BE MADE. FYI: OMANIS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY LEERY OF GULF AIR-KUWAIT AIRWAYS MERGER, WHICH THEY EXPECT WOULD BE DOMINATED BY KUWAIT, AND WE ARE SURPRISED THAT NASSIR'S REACTION WAS NOT MORE NEGATIVE. END FYI.

3. WHILE IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER GULF AIR WILL PURCHASE BAC-111 OR DC-9, THERE ARE SOME SIGNS INDICATING THAT DC-9 IS GAINING GROUND. OMAN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER RAJAB TOLD MEMBER OF FAA GROUP HERE THAT HE EXPECTED DC-9'S TO BE LANDING AT SUR IN FUTURE. OMANGOV IS CURRENTLY SEEKING TO DEVELOP SUR AND OTHER AIRPORTS IN INTERIOR FOR SHORT-HAUL TRAFFIC. WHILE BAC IS OFFERING LESS EXPENSIVE PACKAGE THAN DOUGLAS, OMANIS HAVE ALREADY EXPERIENCED SUBSTANTIAL MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS WITH BAC AIRCRAFT IN OMANI AIR FORCE. WOLLE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LANDING RIGHTS, AIR ROUTES, BUSINESS MERGERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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